

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 9, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

Attention \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation:**

**A. Large Fires**

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5*

*National Preparedness Level = 5*

- *Northwest Area Command (Williams-Rhodes) is managing the following large fires:*
  - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 28,349 acres, 15% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
  - *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 10,977 acres, 5% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
  - *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 52,974 acres, 87% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 23,497 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
  - *Little Salmon Creek Wildland Fire Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath) – 43,018 acres, 0% contained, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
  - *Little Salmon Creek Fire Use Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 33,441 complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell, Montana in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
  - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 57,570 acres, 60% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Trapper Creek Complex – 19,150 acres, 45% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
  - *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 11,300 acres, 90% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:*
  - *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lohrey) – 36,855 acres, 65% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
  - *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 25,110 acres,*

- 75% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.
- Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 25,202 acres, 72% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.
- Lincoln Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 39,707 acres, 77% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.
- Beaver Lake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) – 14,621 acres, 52% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.
- Cayuse Lake Complex - Fire Use Management Team (Cones) – 18,761 acres.
- Clear/Nez Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Cones). This 11,425 acre Fire complex is located 41 miles SW of Lolo, in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
- East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.
- Gold 1 – 8,296 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.
- Cathedral Peak – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 2,830 acres, 100% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.
- Brundage - Fire Use Management Team (Cook) - 1,790 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles NE of Gardner. Transfer of command to a Type 4 organization 9/9 at 0900. This will be the last report.

**B. Initial Attack**      *Light initial attack - 19 new fires 4,977 acres*

**C. State Forecast For Montana**  
**STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT**  
**440 AM MDT TUE SEP 9 2003**

**WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**

*Today - Mostly Cloudy. Scattered Showers North. Highs 58 To 68.*

*Tonight - Mostly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers. Lows 34 To 44.*

*Wednesday - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Mountain Showers. Highs 61 To 71.*

**CENTRAL MONTANA**

*Today - Partly Cloudy. Isolated Rain Showers North. Highs In The Upper 50s To Upper 60s.*

*Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain And Snow Showers Over The Western Mountains. Lows In The Mid 30s To Lower 40s.*

*Wednesday - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Lower To Mid 60s.*

**SOUTHWEST MONTANA**

*Today - Partly Cloudy. Patchy Fog In The Morning Then Isolated Rain Showers In The Afternoon. Highs In The Mid 50s To Mid 60s.*

*Tonight - Mostly Cloudy. Chance Of Rain Showers In The Evening Then Slight Chance Of Rain Showers After Midnight. Lows In The Mid 30s To Lower 40s.*

*Wednesday - Mostly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs In The Mid 50s To Lower 60s.*

**EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA**

*Today - Mostly Sunny North And East...Partly Cloudy Elsewhere. Cooler. A Chance Of Afternoon Showers Southwest. Highs 65 To 75.*

*Tonight - Partly Cloudy North...Mostly Cloudy South. Showers Likely Southeast. Cool. Lows Mainly In The 40s.*

*Wednesday - Mostly Cloudy...Windy And Cool. Showers Likely East. Highs In The 60s.*

### III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

*The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:*

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Sanders	Chouteau	Missoula
Glacier	Teton	Jefferson	Pondera
Lake	Broadwater	Meagher	Powell
Lewis & Clark	Cascade	Mineral	Toole
Lincoln			

### IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

Current Montana National Guard Resources		
Montana Army Guard	EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
<b>NG SOLDIERS</b> <i>63 Soldiers Assigned</i>	<b>23 Transport and Cargo Vehicles</b>	<b>Air Guardsmen</b> <i>26 Airmen Assigned</i>

## **Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)**

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0800-1700 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
  - Northwest Area Command
  - Missoula Area Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

## **V. FEMA Grants:**

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

The Northern Rockies Coordination Center information line has scaled back service hours to 0830 to 1700.

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)

*For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed\\_sit.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac\\_priorities.doc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc)